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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Kiyotaka YOSHII

Group Art Unit: 1791

Application No.: 10/580,419

Examiner: K. MCCLELLAND

Filed: May 22, 2006

Docket No.: 128127

For: SHEET MEMBER TRANSFER DEVICE

**APPLICANT'S SEPARATE RECORD
OF THE SUBSTANCE OF PERSONAL INTERVIEW**

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Applicant appreciates the courtesies shown to Applicant's representatives by Examiner McClelland at the January 22, 2009 personal interview. Applicant's Separate Record of the Substance of Personal Interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

During the personal interview, Applicant's representatives traversed the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of claims 1 and 4-6 over JP 05-220865 to Adachi et al. (hereinafter "Adachi") in view of WO 02/102579 (Suda), and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,888,720 to Habert. Applicant's arguments paralleled the arguments asserted in the Amendment filed January 5, 2009.

As argued during the personal interview, Adachi does not teach or render obvious a transfer drum having application regions being divided into a plurality of low adhesion sections with a low adhesion force, and a plurality of high adhesion sections with a high adhesion force, the low adhesion sections and the high adhesion sections being alternately

arranged in the width direction of the transfer drum, as previously recited in canceled independent claim 1, and now recited in new independent claim 7. For example, if the disclosure of Adachi were applied to a transfer drum, the sheet member would be supported only intermittently in the circumferential direction (see Adachi, Fig. 2), particularly when the sheet member is applied with pressure while it is being transferred from the transfer drum, thereby giving rise to the formation of undesirable indentions or deformations in the circumferential direction, thus creating nonuniformities in the product tires.

In addition to the arguments asserted in the Amendment filed January 5, 2009, Applicant's representatives argued during the personal interview that Adachi does not teach or render obvious "a leading end application region that is structured to apply a strip member forming the leading end of the sheet member, and a plurality of application regions following the leading end application region," as previously recited in canceled independent claim 1, and now recited in new independent claim 7 (emphasis added). For example, Adachi merely discloses first arc segments 21 and second arc segments 25, which allegedly correspond to Applicant's claimed plurality of application regions (see August 5, 2008 Office Action, page 2; and Adachi Fig. 2). However, as argued during the personal interview, Adachi is silent concerning a leading end application region separate from a plurality of application regions, as previously recited in canceled independent claim 1, and now recited in new independent claim 7.

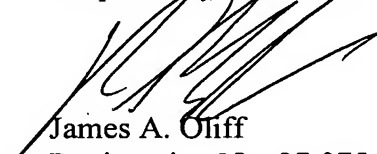
Therefore, for at least the foregoing reasons, new independent claim 7 is patentable over the applied references. Further, claims 2-6 and 8-10, which variously depend from claim 7, are also patentable over the applied references for at least the reasons discussed above, as well as for the additional features they recite.

For example, as argued during the personal interview, none of the applied references teaches or renders obvious "the high adhesion sections and low adhesion sections being flush with each other," as recited in claim 9.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:BDM/hjr

Date: January 29, 2009

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